

## REMARKS

Claims 6-9, 20-23, and 31 were pending in the present application. Claims 10-17 and 24-30 were withdrawn as being non-elected. Claim 17 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 10-16 and 24-30 rejoined. Thus claims 6-16, 20-31 are now pending in the present application. Reconsideration of the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

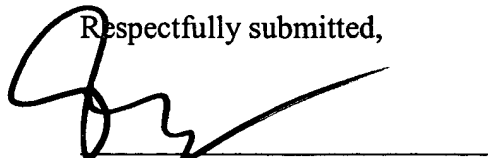
Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 6-9, 20-23, and 31 are allowed and that claims 10-16 and 24-30 would be allowable if re-written. Accordingly, claims 10-16 and 24-30 have been rewritten to depend from claims 6 and 20 respectively.

The abstract has been amended to conform to MPEP 608.01(b).

In view of the forgoing, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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